

Appl. No. 09/481,640

Amdt. dated 8/6/06

Reply to Office action of 5/5/06

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (previously presented): A variable length cutting device, comprising:

a rotary cutter; and

a transfer cylinder cooperating with said rotary cutter for cutting a ribbon into signatures having a desired cutoff length, said transfer cylinder having a central cylinder axis, a circumferential region, a gripper and a tucking blade disposed in said circumferential region at a fixed distance from said central cylinder axis, and an adjustable diameter portion disposed between said gripper and said tucking blade in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder, said adjustable diameter portion being movable in a direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis for adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures, and said adjustable diameter portion being an adjustable roller

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movable in the direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A variable length cutting device, comprising:

a rotary cutter; and

a transfer cylinder cooperating with said rotary cutter for cutting a ribbon into signatures having a desired cutoff length, said transfer cylinder having a central cylinder axis, a circumferential region, a gripper and a tucking blade disposed in said circumferential region at a fixed distance from said central cylinder axis, and an adjustable diameter portion disposed between said gripper and said tucking blade in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder, said adjustable diameter portion being movable in a direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis for adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures; and

one of a linear jack and an eccentric jack connected to said adjustable diameter portion for moving said adjustable diameter portion toward and away from said central cylinder axis.

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Claims 4-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): A variable length cutting device, comprising:

a rotary cutter; and

a transfer cylinder cooperating with said rotary cutter for cutting a ribbon into signatures having a desired cutoff length, said transfer cylinder having a central cylinder axis and a circumferential region, and an adjustable roller disposed in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder, said adjustable roller being movable in a direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis for adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures.

Claims 11-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (new). The variable length cutting device according to claim 2, which further comprises a dancer roller for compensating for variations in length of the ribbon.

Claim 15 (new). The variable length cutting device according to claim 3, which further comprises a dancer roller for compensating for variations in length of the ribbon.

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Claim 16 (new). The variable length cutting device according to claim 10, which further comprises a dancer roller for compensating for variations in length of the ribbon.